

REMARKS

The last Office Action has been carefully considered.

It is noted that the abstract and the disclosure are objected to, and the claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112.

At the same time, the Examiner indicated that claims 1-24 were not rejected over the art.

In compliance with the Examiner's formal objections and rejections, applicants have provided a new abstract of the disclosure as required.

The disclosure has been amended to bring it in compliance with the requirements of the U.S. Patent Practice.

Also, claims 1, 7, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 23 have been amended to bring them in compliance with the requirements of the U.S. Patent Practice.

It is therefore believed that the Examiner's formal grounds for the objections and rejections are eliminated.

The Examiner's indication of the allowability of the claims has been gratefully acknowledged. In view of this indication, it is respectfully submitted that since the claims have been amended in formal aspects, they should be now considered as being in allowable condition.

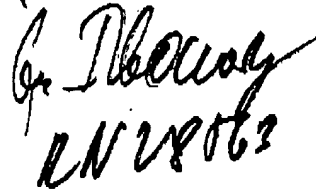
Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,



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